

Tree regulations

City Code 14.12

“Tree conservation areas” are established to be the same areas as the legally defined front, side or rear yard setbacks of any residential or commercial property as described in the zoning regulations of the city of Annapolis, which are adjacent to a public right-of-way.

B. Within a tree conservation area, no tree greater than five inches in diameter as measured at four and one-half feet above the ground shall be removed except as provided for in this section. Within a tree conservation area, the property owner may remove trees that are less than five inches in diameter as measured at four and one-half feet above the ground.

C. A permit issued by the director of neighborhood and environmental programs or his or her designee is required for the removal of any tree greater than five inches in diameter, as measured at four and one-half feet above the ground, located within the tree conservation area. There shall be no fee for the tree removal permit. Conditions under which such a permit may be issued include but shall not be limited to the following:

1. The tree is dead, dying or diseased, such that fifty percent or more of the crown area is visibly dead;
2. The tree is damaged or injured to the extent that it is likely to die or become diseased;
3. The removal of the tree will serve the purposes of this chapter or will enhance the health of the remaining trees in the conservation area;
4. The removal of the tree will avoid or alleviate, mitigate, or reduce a substantial hardship or damage to the property or any structure located thereon; or
5. The removal of the tree is consistent with good forestry practices.

City Code 17.09

Any application for a building or grading permit submitted in accordance with the requirements of this title, or any application for a development project requiring site design review in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 21.98, shall include a landscape plan at a scale of one inch to forty feet. The landscape plan shall be considered a part of the permit or site plan design review application and shall be subject to the review requirements and administrative procedures of this title or Chapter 21.98, whichever shall apply.

Any tree is conjunction with a building or grading permit that is removed must be replaced at a certain ratio. Please refer to City Code 17.09 for the specifics of this requirement.

Removal of trees within 100 ft buffer

Any resident that would like to remove a tree within the 100 ft of mean high water must receive approval from the City’s Planning and Zoning Department. Megan Owen can be reached at 410.263.7961.

I. Tree Benefits

Trees benefit us in many ways. They improve our air quality, increase our economic vitality, provide energy conservation, reduce stormwater runoff, and provide shade.

Trees clean the air that we breath. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, one acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people. One acre of young trees can absorb as much carbon dioxide as a car produces in 26,000 miles.

According to researchers, tree planting is the most cost-effective way to conserve energy resources in both winter and summer. In the winter, properly placed trees can help reduce heating costs by serving as windbreaks, conserving between 10 and 50 percent of the energy needed for heating a home. In the summer, shade trees on the south and west sides of a house can reduce air conditioning costs by as much as 30 percent.

Trees will also greatly increase the value of your property. Researchers have reported that a tree can increase a homeowner's property value as much as 20 percent. Additional information regarding the benefits of trees can be found at, http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/tree_Benefits.asp

II. Don't top your tree, it hurts!

Topping a tree is an unacceptable practice in today's world of tree care. The International Society of Arboriculture defines topping as, "the indiscriminate cutting of tree branches to stubs or lateral branches that are not large enough to assume the terminal role." Topping a tree will not only greatly damage the tree but in the long run will be much more costly for the property owner. Most owners feel that topping a tree will reduce it's height. Over a few years, water sprouts will have grown from the pruned limbs and the tree will be taller than it was before it was topped. The pictures below, taken from www.urbantree.org are examples of topping. Additional information on topping can be found at, <http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/topping.asp>



Tree topping



Water sprouts growing from a topped tree

III. Why Hire a Maryland Licensed Tree Care Expert

In Maryland, persons engaged in the work of the treatment of care of trees for compensation must be licensed by the Department of Natural Resources. Without a license, they may not practice or advertise tree care services in the state. A licensed tree care expert has been properly trained to provide the best overall tree care possible.

IV. Plant Native!

Native plants are vegetation that originated from this region. There are a wide variety of species that are native to this area. A detailed list of vegetation that is native to Maryland can be found at, <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/criticalarea/trees.html>

VI. Proper Mulching Techniques

Mulching and watering are the final touches for planting a tree. It is very important to complete both; however, if mulched improperly the tree may suffer some major hardships. A 2-4 inch layer of mulch should be placed around the tree. The mulch should not come in contact with the trunk of the tree. If it



does, the mulch may create trunk rot. Mulch has many benefits. This is a simple process that can improve your tree's health and increase it's life span.

For more information on mulching please visit: <http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/mulching.asp>

photo3: Improper mulching from www.ci.greensboro.nc.us

VII. Look up and down and all around before you plant!

It is very important to look up, down, and all around before you start digging. Most trees are approximately six feet when they are planted; however, some trees can grow over 75 feet. Do not plant large trees under powerlines. Once the tree is mature it may grow up into the lines and cause power outages. Also, most utilities are buried below ground. You want to contact Miss Utility at 1-800-257-7777 so your underground lines can be marked. You also need to look around and ask yourself if the tree will have enough room to grow. The root of most trees grow two to three times the length of the tree's canopy. BGE has a program called, "Right Tree, Right Place". They have important information on their web site (<http://www.bge.com/cmp/CDA/discussion/0,1666,22683,00.html>) that can assist you in selecting the right tree for your planting location.

VIII.. Trying to figure out what kind of tree you have in your yard?

This may help:

<http://www.arborday.org/trees/WhatTree.cfm?ItemID=E6A>